

Karluk River

Land Status & Public Use Information

This information pertains mainly to unguided use on the Karluk River. If you are a guide or client of a guide, please contact Koniag, Inc. for more information.

Located on the southwest end of Kodiak Island approximately one hour by air from the city of Kodiak, the Karluk River area provides excellent opportunities for fishing, hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing, and other wilderness activities.

The Karluk River is 22 miles long and is located within the boundary of the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge except for the lower 8 miles. Koniag, Inc. owns the majority of the land adjacent to the river and the northern portion of Karluk Lake while the Karluk IRA Tribal Council owns the land adjacent to the lower 3 miles of the Karluk River and the Karluk Lagoon. Public use trail and site easements were reserved at intervals along the river to provide reasonable access to the remaining public land and major waterways. Land ownership, trail, and site easement information is shown on the attached map. In 2002 Koniag, Inc., Kodiak Refuge and the State of Alaska signed an agreement creating a conservation easement zone on Koniag land surrounding Karluk Lake and around the portion of Karluk River within the Refuge boundary. To facilitate public use of this zone, the Refuge implemented a cost-free permit system for unguided users of land within ½ mile of Karluk Lake and Karluk River ([see map](#)). Note that use of Karluk IRA land requires a separate permit available from them.

Following are answers to some frequently asked questions regarding access and use of Karluk Lake and River for public recreation.

When do I need to get a Refuge permit to use Karluk River and Karluk Lakeshore?

▪ A permit is required at all times to use easement land within ½ mile of Karluk Lake and Karluk River for recreational purposes.

Are there any other permits I will need for the Karluk River downstream of the Refuge boundary?

▪ No additional permit is needed if you have obtained the appropriate Refuge permit and plan on floating and fishing the Karluk River between the Refuge boundary and Karluk Lagoon during your last day. As part of your Refuge permit, you also are permitted to camp for a single night at any one of 3 designated overnight campsites ([see map](#)) adjacent to the river on Koniag, Inc. land. An additional permit is needed if, at any time, you wish to access and use Karluk Tribal Council land. For more information contact:

Koniag, Inc., 104 Center Avenue,
Suite 205, Kodiak, Alaska 99615
(907) 486-2530

Karluk IRA Tribal Council
Box 22, Karluk, Alaska 99608
(907) 241-2218

Where can I obtain a permit to use easement land along Karluk River and Karluk Lake?

▪ *Unguided visitors* can apply for a free Refuge permit by visiting the Refuge headquarters office located at 1390 Buskin River Road, Kodiak, Alaska, 99615 or calling the Refuge at (907) 487-2600 or toll-free at (888) 408-3514.

▪ *Guided visitors* need to obtain a land use permit from Koniag, Inc.'s authorized guides. For a listing of guides contact Koniag Inc. at the previously listed address or telephone number.

Are there limits on the number of permits available to unguided and guided visitors?

▪ Yes, but only between June 10 and July 15, called the limited entry period, which coincides with the peak of the king salmon run. During this period, daily permits will be limited to 28 for unguided visitors and 42 for guided visitors.

▪ During the remainder of the year, referred to as the registration period, there are no daily or overall limits on the number of guided and unguided visitors.

What can I do if I don't receive a permit for the time period I applied for?

▪ If you applied for, but were not awarded a limited entry permit, you can reapply for any remaining permits for other dates.

Can I apply for an easement zone permit more than one year in advance of my planned visit?

▪ No. However, applications may be submitted after November 1 for the following year.

Can I apply for more than one trip during the limited entry period?

▪ No.

Can I apply for a group (party) permit and submit one application for the members in my party, or do I have to submit a separate application for each person?

▪ During the limited entry period, a single application can be submitted for a group.

▪ During the registration period, each visitor must complete a separate permit application form.

How long can I stay?

▪ A maximum stay of 7 days is allowed during the limited entry period, including 6 days within the easement zone and 1 day downstream of the Refuge boundary.

▪ There is no limit on length of stay during the registration period.

Are there limits on group size?

▪ During the limited entry period, group size is limited to a total of 6 persons.

▪ During the registration period, there is no limit on group size.

Can I start my visit prior to June 10 and extend it into the limited entry period or, conversely, start my visit during the limited entry period and extend it past July 15?

▪ Yes, however, in both cases you will need to have a limited entry permit for the period of your visit between June 10 and July 15, and also a registration permit for any time spent outside of the limited entry period.

Will visitors permitted during the limited entry period who encounter weather delays lose time from their allotted trip?

▪ No. Visitors prevented from accessing easement land to start their trip because of poor weather will be allowed a permit extension. For example, a party permitted for a 5-day trip between July 1-5 who, due to poor weather, was unable to access the Karluk until July 3, would be granted a 2-day extension to allow them to complete the originally planned 5-day trip.

I am planning several trips to the Karluk River this year during the registration period. Do I need a new permit for each of these trips?

▪ Yes.

Are there any other rules or special conditions that I should be aware of?

▪ Yes. At the bottom of your permit is a list of special conditions that you must abide by when accessing and using easement lands. Please take time to read and become familiar with them.

I am planning on floating the Karluk River to Karluk Lagoon. Where can I camp along the river once I am downstream of the refuge boundary?

▪ Once you obtain a Refuge permit unguided users are allowed to camp for a single night at any one of the following 3 designated overnight campsites ([see map](#)):

1. Fire Ring Hole 2. Canoe Rock 3. Shasta Creek

▪ Additionally, you may camp for a single night at a one-acre public easement located between the second and third designated campsites.

Where can I camp in Karluk Lagoon as I end my trip?

▪ There is a one-acre public easement, located at the float plane pick-up site along the northeast shore of Karluk Lagoon that can be used as a campsite for a single night. Fifteen acres of state-owned land located along the southeast shore of the lagoon (directly across from the public easement - [see map](#)) are also available for public use, including camping for up to 14 consecutive days.



